(b) Does not arse.

**Proposal for renewal of lease of M/s Bellary Mining Corporation**

751. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal for renewing the mining lease No. 1586 for a period of 10 years in favour of M/s Bellary Mining Corporation over an area of 15.80 ha. in Hulakundi Village, District Bellary, Karnataka, for extraction of Iron ore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the Centre's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. As per provisions of Section 8 of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, the power to grant renewal of mining leases in respect of mineral iron ore is with the concerned State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

**Approval for leasing mining to Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.**

752. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. (KIOCL) has sought Central Government's approval for leasing mines in various States, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) by when KIOCL is expected to receive he centre's approval in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Under Section 10(3) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, Mining Leases are granted by the State Government concerned. Proposals for prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease for minerals specified under the first Schedule to the aforesaid Act originate from the respective State Governments and are processed and disposed

of by the Central Government as per provisions of Section 5(1) of the aforesaid Act. At present, no proposal for grant of Mining Lease in favour of Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. is pending with the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

**Coal requirement in the Country**

†753. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the stock of coal to meet the domestic and industrial requirements of the country; and

(b) the effective steps being taken by Government to maintain availability as well as the balance between the demand and supply of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The total production of coal in the country to meet the domestic and industrial requirements in the year 2001-02 was 327.64 million tonnes (provisional).

(b) The following steps have been taken to maintain availability as well as the balance between the demand and supply of coal:

(i) Coal import has been placed Open General Licence.

(ii) Allotment of coal mining blocks for captive end use; 27 blocks have already been allotted to different parties for capitive use.

(iii) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 to open coal sector for private sector participation without restriction of captive consumption, has been introduced in the Parliament.

(iv) Revision of coal mining policy—State Governments and State public sector units have been allowed to open underground and opencast mines without any restriction of "Isolated small pockets."

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.